GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2185
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2001
PAGING INDUSTRY
JAINARAIN PRASAD NISHAD

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose o provide similar relief to the paging industry as has been given to cellular industry by reducing the licence fee;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent of relief given to them;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (d): As envisaged for resolution of problems of existing operators in New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) and in pursuance to the recommendations of Group on Telecom and IT Convergence (GOT-IT) for issues like migration from fixed licence fee regime to revenue sharing regime, Government has decided to undertake an independent study of Radio Paging Industry. The Tariff Commission is at present conducting the study for the health of this industry.

The custom duty on pagers has been brought at par with the cellular mobile phones from 15% to 5% w.e.f. August 31, 2000. Further, the WPC charge of Rs. 100/- per subscriber per annum has been waived off w.e.f. August 1, 1999.